

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON MICRONESIAN LEGISLATION

REF: SUVA 0787

1. H.R. 6550, WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND FOR US TERRITORIES, HAS PASSED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE SENATE WILL CUT THE HOUSE-APPROVED APPROPRIATION LEVELS SUBSTANTIALLY. WE CANNOT PREDICT WHAT LEVELS THE EVENTUAL HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE MIGHT AGREE ON.

2. SECTION 105 OF THE LEGISLATION WOULD PROVIDE FOR PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ON MARCH 1, 1954, WERE RESIDENTS ON RONGELAP OR UTIRIK ATOLLS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, OR TO THEIR HEIRS OR LEGATEES. SPECIFIC LANGUAGE FOLLOWS:

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"(1) THE SECRETARY (OF THE INTERIOR) SHALL PAY \$25,000 TO EACH SUCH INDIVIDUAL FROM WHOM THE THYROID GLAND OR A NEUROFIBROMA IN THE NECK WAS SURGICALLY REMOVED, OR WHO HAS DEVELOPED THYROID ATROPHY RESULTING IN MYXEDEMA, OR WHO DEVELOPS A RADIATION-RELATED MALIGNANCY, SUCH AS LEUKEMIA,

"(2) THE SECRETARY SHALL PAY \$1,000 TO EACH
INDIVIDUAL WHO, ON SUCH DATE, WAS A RESIDENT ON UTIRIK
ATOLL, AND

"(3) WHERE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT, AS HE SHALL
DETERMINE, THE SECRETARY SHALL PAY AN AMOUNT NOT IN
EXCESS OF \$25,000 AS HE DETERMINES TO BE AN APPROPRIATE
COMPASSIONATE COMPENSATION TO EACH SUCH INDIVIDUAL WHO
HAS SUFFERED ANY PHYSICAL INJURY OR HARM FROM A RADIATION-
RELATED CAUSE BUT WHO IS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN
PARAGRAPH (1) OR (2).

"(4) IN ADDITION TO THE PAYMENTS PROVIDED IN PARA-
GRAPHS (1), (2), AND (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE SECRETARY
SHALL PROVIDE BY APPROPRIATE MEANS ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE
AND TREATMENT FOR ANY PERSON WHO HAS A CONTINUING NEED
FOR THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF ANY RADIATION INJURY OR
ILLNESS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE THERMONUCLEAR DETONATION
REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH (A) OF THIS SECTION.

"(5) NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 1980, THE SECRETARY
SHALL REPORT TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE UNITED
STATES CONGRESS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION WHAT, IF ANY,
ADDITIONAL COMPASSIONATE COMPENSATION MAY BE JUSTIFIED
FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS CONTINUING TO SUFFER FROM INJURIES
OR ILLNESSES DIRECTLY RELATED TO RADIATION RESULTING FROM
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THE THERMONUCLEAR DETONATION REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH (A)
OF THIS SECTION.

"IN THE CASE OF THE DEMISE OF ANY INDIVIDUAL ENTITLED TO
RECEIVE PAYMENT UNDER THIS SECTION WHO EXPIRES BEFORE
RECEIVING SUCH PAYMENT, THE SECRETARY SHALL PAY THE AMOUNT
WHICH THAT INDIVIDUAL WOULD HAVE BEEN ENTITLED TO RECEIVE
UNDER THIS SECTION TO THE HEIRS OR LEGATEES OF SUCH
INDIVIDUAL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN APPROPRIATE METHOD OF
DISTRIBUTION PER STIRPES, AND NOT PER CAPITA, EXCEPT THAT
THE PARENTS, OR THEIR SUCCESSORS, OF THE DECEASED LAKOJ
ANJAIN SHALL BE PAID A TOTAL OF \$100,000." CHRISTOPHER

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